

Congress and the President promised just two years ago. For example, the Republican budget denies Title I services to 2.4 million students who qualify under the Act.

But the irresponsibility does not end with No Child Left Behind. For the third straight year the Republican Party has frozen the funding level for Pell Grants. Both the Republicans and the President freeze the maximum Pell Grant award at the 2003 level of \$4,050, with an average grant of \$2,399. Such small Pell Grants make college unaffordable for millions of students: the College Board reports that tuition and fees at 4-year public colleges today average \$4,694. In any market this gap would be hard to swallow, but with the current state of joblessness that the Republican Party's agenda has created it is near impossible for so many American families to send their children to college. I fear that this agenda if allowed to continue will cause a perpetual state where our American families aren't able to succeed. The CBC budget would ease the difficulty on the plethora of American families having problems funding their children's education. It guarantees almost \$2 billion more for the Pell Grant, raising the maximum level to \$4,500, an 11 percent increase over the maximum under the Republican Budget.

In addition to this the CBC budget provides even more benefits to our education system. It adds a combined total of \$18.7 billion to educational spending which will greatly reduce the stress placed on our educational system today.

But education is not limited to elementary and secondary schools and colleges and universities. Education is a lifelong endeavor. And with that in mind the CBC budget proposes an additional \$2 billion for Job Training, Vocational Education, and Adult Education. Such funding will provide countless Americans the ability to improve their lives, their families, their communities, and their nation. The Republican budget underfunds our education and our future.

VETERANS

Our brave American veterans are another group who were outraged by the President's budget and will unfortunately be disappointed with the Republican House Budget. The majority party argues continuously about the greatness of our Armed Forces, and their right, but again it's just empty rhetoric on their part. Those brave men and women fighting on the front lines in our War Against Terror will come back home and find that the Republican Party looks at them differently once they become veterans. They are no longer treated as great heroes. Instead they are viewed as a nuisance and a way to cut the budget.

Almost all veterans need some form of health care, some will need drastic care for the rest of their lives because of the sacrifice they made in war, but the Republican Party continues to turn a blind eye to their needs. On a bipartisan basis, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs recommended that \$2.5 million more than the President's budget was needed to maintain vital health care programs for veterans. Nevertheless, the House Republican budget provides \$1.3 billion less than what the Committee recommended for 2005. The CBC budget provides an extra \$1.25 billion to meet the request of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

The entire Department of Veterans Affairs is going to suffer because of the Republican

agenda. Over the next five years the money allocated to the Department of Veterans Affairs will not even be able to maintain these programs at their current levels. In 2007, the budget is \$227 million less than what the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to keep pace with inflation. Over five years, the Republican budget cuts \$1.6 billion from the total needed to maintain services at the 2004 level. I've heard from veterans groups throughout my district in Houston and I'm sure each Member of this body has heard from groups in their own district because veterans are one group that come from all parts of this nation. These brave veterans have told me their stories of how they are suffering now with the current state of veterans affairs. I am going to have trouble telling them that not only will things continue to stay bad but things will only continue to get worse. That is not what our returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan should have to look forward to, a future where their needs are not only not provided for, but are in fact ignored.

The CBC budget provides an extra \$8.7 billion in total veterans spending. An increase that is sure to fix many of the aforementioned problems. Of that extra funding \$3.6 billion will be dedicated to fund the Montgomery GI Bill. This program is, and has been, one of the most important veterans programs around, and I for one will not allow it to be underfunded. Finally, the CBC budget will give \$2.5 billion and \$25 billion over ten years to help eliminate the tax on disabled veterans known as concurrent receipts. While the Administration's tax cuts are doled out to the wealthiest Americans this budget will aid those who really need our help, our veterans.

IRRESPONSIBLE REPUBLICAN POLICIES AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Education and Veterans Affairs make up only two areas where Republican budget fails Americans. The truth is there are many other programs and services vital to our nation that are at risk because of the Republican agenda. At this point, an average American may be asking why the Republican Party finds it necessary to cut so many fundamental programs. The answer is simple, yet disturbing; the majority party is cutting important programs in order to finance all their irresponsible tax cuts. They will continue to make the argument that tax cuts provide stimulus for our economy, but millions of unemployed Americans will tell you otherwise. In fact the Congressional Budget Office itself said "tax legislation will probably have a net negative effect on saving, investment, and capital accumulation over the next 10 years."

While the Republican Party continues its offensive for irresponsible tax policies they allow our national deficit to grow increasingly larger. The deficits are so large and their policies are so irresponsible that they won't even make deficit projections past 2009. It's clear that the Republican Party is hiding from the American people. This President and this majority in Congress have yet to advocate a fiscal policy that helps average Americans. Special interests have become king in this budget at the price of sound fiscal policies.

The CBC budget will go a long way to solving this problem. Our goal is to help the common person not just the CEO. We want to protect the Average American who is struggling every day through these tough times just to get by. And this brings me to another key

problem with the Republican Budget. In what direction are they taking Homeland Security? The CBC budget provides an additional \$2.4 billion in Homeland Security funding. It provides an extra \$900 million for First Responders including the COPS Program and Citizen Corps and provides an extra \$566 million for Port Security grants and an additional \$250 million for Rail Security. We must keep American citizens out of harm's way and the CBC budget provides us with the resources to do that.

CBC ALTERNATIVE BUDGET

The truth about the budget is that a sound fiscal policy that funds needed programs is possible. The CBC Alternative Budget is an example of how we can get out of the quagmire that the Republican agenda has put this Nation in.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES FROM A PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, as I sat here and listened to this debate tonight, a number of things crossed my mind. I would like to pass backwards through the comments that were made by the distinguished members of the Congressional Black Caucus and address some of the subject matter. As you sit in your living rooms this evening and you consider what you have heard, you have heard our President's name used over and over again, never in a complimentary fashion, not particularly derogatory, given some of the evenings I have seen in this Chamber, but we need to keep in mind that the apparent Democrat nominee for President is a Member of the other body. According to the rules of this House, I cannot nor can any Member use the name of that Member of the other body and designate them in the same fashion that the Members we have heard here tonight have the latitude to speak about our President, our Commander in Chief and the leader of the free world.

And so that is a restriction that I have. And when I reference the apparent Democrat nominee for President, you will know who I am speaking of. However, what we have heard here is that the Congressional Black Caucus budget has fiscal responsibility because they offer a balanced budget. But the